

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 152133Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC P0802

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 02921

FOR CU/ARA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OESC - CS (BERNARD, EULALIA)

SUBJ: IV NOMINEE EULALIA BERNARD LITTLE

REF: STATE 161395 AND SAN JOSE 2802

1. POST REGRETS OVERSIGHT IN DROPPING VISA ELIGIBILITY  
FROM REFERENCE. MS. BERNARD IS ELIGIBLE.

2. TO FURTHER EDUCIDATE PART II OF THE NOMINATION,  
OVER TWO YEARS AGO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS  
STIRRED UP QUITE A CONTROVERSY OVER BI-LINGUAL AND  
BI-CULTURAL EDUCATION IN COSTA RICA, ALLEGING THAT  
THE ONLY CULTURAL FORMULA FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE  
PROVINCE OF LIMON WAS COMPLETE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC  
ASSIMILATION WITH THE MAJORITY OF COSTA RICANS.  
SINCE THAT TIME HOWEVER, THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
HAS APPARENTLY COME TO THE IDEA OF PLURALISM IN  
ETHNIC AND CULTURAL EDUCATION, INCLUDING TEACHING  
OF ENGLISH IN THE LIMON SCHOOLS.  
THIS HAS CERTAIN IMPLICATIONS FOR US IN THAT PROVINCE; INCLUDING  
LENDING NEW PRESTIGE AND EFFECTIVENESS TO THE LIMON BINATIONAL  
CENTER, WHICH TEACHES ENGLISH.

3. RECENTLY A STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION CARRIED  
PROMINENTLY IN THE PRESS APPEARED TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCIPLE  
OF EDUCATIONAL PLURALISM. THE MINISTER ATTACKED THE METHODOLOGZJP  
OF A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER IN LIMON PROVINCE, WHO TEACHES IN  
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THE CAHUITA PRIMARY SCHOOL, FOR USING ENGLISH LANGUAGE POSTERS,  
WHICH DEPICT FAMOUS AMERICAN BLACK LEADERS, AS A TEACHING AID.

4. IN VIEW OF HER PRESENT JOB AND THE RESPECT IN WHICH SHE IS HELD, MS. BERNARD WAS SENT BY THE MINISTER TO CAHUITA TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND PROPOSE A SOLUTION. BASED ON HER STRONG BELIEF IN PLURALISM IN EDUCATION, EVEN WITH HER LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF OPERATIONAL SITUATIONS, SHE IS HAVING A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE MINISTER REGARDING THIS PROBLEM. ALREADY SHE IS IN A PARTICULARLY ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION TO DIRECTLY AFFECT PUBLIC OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT. WE EXPECT THAT BECAUSE OF THE INSIGHTS SHE IS CERTAIN TO GAIN FROM WHAT SHE OBSERVES ON THIS CAREFULLY PROGRAMMED TRIP TO THE U.S., SHE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO POSITIVELY INFLUENCE THE MINISTER AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TOWARDS FULL ACCEPTANCE OF ETHNIC IDENTIFICATION AND THE BILINGUAL, BI-CULTURAL APPROACH TO EDUCATION IN LIMON PROVINCE.

5. MS. BERNARD'S TRIP TO THE U.S. WILL SERVE U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS BY DEMONSTRATING THE STRENGTH AND RESILIENCY OF THE AMERICAN MULTI-CULTURAL APPROACH TO EDUCATION, AND THIS WILL SERVE TO SHOW U.S. LEADERSHIP IN ETHNIC, RACIAL, AND CULTURAL EQUALITY.  
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